

**ABSTRACT**

The instant invention provides potent antiandrogen compounds, such as 3 $\beta$ -acetoxyandrost-1,5-diene-17-ethylene ketal and 3 $\beta$ -hydroxyandrost-1,5-diene-17-ethylene ketal, and methods for their use in the prevention and treatment of biological conditions mediated by androgen receptors. Thus, for example, compounds of the invention are useful in the prevention and treatment of prostate cancer. Furthermore, it has been discovered that compounds of the invention are useful in the prevention and treatment of androgen-independent cancers such as androgen-independent prostate cancer. Finally, inventive compounds may be used to treat antiandrogen induced withdrawal syndrome.